

The Elba Clipper

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1 SECTION, 10 PAGES PLUS 1 ADV. INSERT

MCCOLLOUGH WANTS PORTION OF SCHOOL PROPERTY FOR PARK

Council appoints Brunson to board

By Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council ended a months long delay Monday evening by appointing former council member Bill Brunson to the Elba City School Board.

Brunson, a native Elba, Kelley who asked not to be re-appointed Kelley explained that he had acquired too many other obligations to continue giving the time to the schools that the children deserve and the parents expect.

The vote to appoint Brunson was a motion by Ben Carpenter and carried by a 4-3 vote, and three abstaining. Voting for the action were Carpenter, John W. Sharpless and Gladys Yelverton. Council members Earl McCollough and Brad Wilson both have teachers in the system and the school was of interest, each explained. Mayor Ricky Haywood abstained, explaining after the meeting that he felt the council was not following proper procedure in making the appointment. He said he felt such matters should be discussed and then the mayor makes a formal recommendation on to whom.

Recruitment Director Ricky Mularz addressed the council with a request the city pay the food and lodging for the 14 and under girls all-star softball team when they go to the state championship game in Cullman.

Mularz said the maximum cost would not be over \$1750 for the three days in Cullman, Mularz said they wouldn't need that much mon-

ey if the girls were eliminated from the tournament early.

The council voted unanimously in favor of a motion by Sharpless to support this team in its quest for a state championship.

In voting the motion Sharpless said, "The recreation department should be commended for having a team make it to the championships. Mayor Haywood agreed and strongly supported the motion to approve the expenditure.

Sharpless informed the council he would be introducing an amendment to the 1994-1 ordinance at the next meeting. This will add two council members, Ben Carpenter and Brad Wilson to the signature card to sign city checks. The council approved this action, however Haywood abstained. He opposed the original ordinance, naming two signatures and has declined to personally sign any of the checks.

At the last council meeting Mayor

Haywood had told council members there was a problem with the council's requirement for two signatures on checks. He noted it is often hard to find Sharpless or McCollough to co-sign the checks with the city clerk.

When the amendment is approved, there will be four council members who are eligible to fill this requirement for two names on all city checks.

McCollough again brought up the proposal to sell the parcel of the old school property adjoining Cook Chevrolet. He told council members

they had voted on August 23, 1993 to "make it a park." Other council members said they had agreed to put some picnic tables and lights up, but had not made it a permanent park. McCollough responded from the floor, "The council members had received a letter from the city attorney, suggesting it not be sold until the questions had been resolved. Haywood then read from another part of the letter which noted it was only a motion of the council and not a permanent ordinance or resolution which set up the park."

Haywood told McCollough that if he wanted the property retained as a park he should have an ordinance prepared to that effect and let the council vote on the proposed. He agreed to have it as an ordinance ready by the next council meeting.

Monthly bills totaling \$14,604.08

were approved for payment.

Haywood commended the Elba Chamber of Commerce for their project of placing American flags around the courthouse square during the 4th of July holiday. He also commended city employees who assisted with the project.

The mayor also noted there was a public hearing with ADEM next Wednesday, July 17th, at Elba City

Please See CITY, Page 10



ONE-CAR CRASH KILLS ONE. Wednesday afternoon, shortly after 4:00 p.m., emergency and law enforcement responded to a report that a white car, on an off-road track, had been involved on Co. Rd. 349. Sheriff's deputies were the first to arrive on the scene. Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moates and Deputies. McCollough and Wilson found the car and checked the individual, a man, inside and determined that he was dead. It appeared the car left the road and landed in a deep gully a short distance from where Co. Rd. 349 intersects with AL Hwy. 189. Officials identified the lone occupant of the car as being John Aaron Holland, 56, of Elba, AL. He was pronounced dead at the scene by Coffee County Coroner Marvin McIlwain. An autopsy was ordered to determine cause of death, but had not been completed as of 10:00 p.m. They did not call the police. The car had been investigated by State Trooper Boyd Hartung assisted by the Coffee County Sheriff's Department, the Coffee County Coroner's office, 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's office, and the Alabama Department of Forensic Science.

Commission recognizes Musser and buys Jeep

by Marvin McIlwain, Editor

The Coffee County Commission continued its string of get-together meetings with Monday's meeting last night at the commissioners' office.

Commissioners recognized Steve Musser, who is with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for his dedicated service to Coffee County.

Several weeks ago, Sheriff Ben Moates' patrol car was totaled while he was on an emergency personnel a week ago.

At the last commission meeting held on June 24, commissioners agreed to send out bid requests on a lease-purchase of a replacement vehicle.

County Administrator Wilson Mobley commented that the sheriff had been unable to locate a replacement car similar to the one he was driving, however, he had located a Jeep Cherokee which was on the sheriff's bid list.

Mobley said that he polled the commissioners by phone and received the consent of five commissioners for the sheriff to go ahead and purchase the vehicle at a cost of \$19,100.00.

Tindell reported the bridge construction at the Elba School System Complex was 45 percent complete.

Also, the resurfacing projects on Co. Rds. 479 and 728 will be started in the very near future.

During the general business session of the meeting, the commission was asked to approve the purchase of a Jeep Cherokee for the sheriff's department.

Commissioner Lawrence Creek, in recognizing Musser, said, "Steve's work is outstanding. He is always available to fill up the ditches and potholes."

Commissioner Bill Faulk commented that Musser "Puts forth that extra effort - goes above and beyond the call of duty." Musser, who has been with the service for 12 years, credits his success to his fellow employees.

The Jirights are members of Elba First Assembly of God, and Ronny is also a member of Gideons International and the Elba Christian Coalition.

After finishing school in Miami, FL, Ronny joined the U.S. Air Force where he spent 10 years in the fire and rescue department.

In 1969, he graduated from MacArthur Trade School with a degree in electronics and communications.

In 1970, he joined the Elba

Police Department and the Elba Sound Center and Fishin' Hole.

"With 26 years of business experience, I am very aware of the need for more business and industry in Elba. Also, I recognize the need for more housing for incoming families.

I will work diligently with the council and the industrial board in pursuit of this goal," Jiright said.

Ronny sold his business last year, however, it will be available to a full-time mayor.

As a bus driver for the Elba School System for the past fifteen years, Jiright has had the unique experience of getting to know many of Elba's youth, and understanding their need for more recreational programs and facilities.

Jiright said that he polled the commissioners by phone and received the consent of five commissioners for the sheriff to go ahead and purchase the vehicle at a cost of \$19,100.00.

The final item of business was the reading and accepting of a letter of resignation from police officer Darrell Griswold. He will be joining the Enterprise Police Department.

The council commended officer

McCollough for the fine job that he had done for the Town of New Brockton and wished him well in his new job.

Please See RACE, Page 10

Engineer Randy Tindell reported on several on-going projects.

He noted that the bridge replacement on Co. Rd. 156 (Boat Scout Road) was 99 percent complete and the only thing left to do was the

finalization of the bridge's completion.

Tindell reported the bridge construction at the Elba School System Complex was 45 percent complete.

Also, the resurfacing projects on Co. Rds. 479 and 728 will be started in the very near future.

During the general business session of the meeting, the commission was discussed. In the June 10th commission meeting, Tindell told commissioners that the only feasible thing to do was to completely rebuild this road.

However, in Monday's meeting, he noted that due to the dangerous condition of the road, that level and patch work be done until a permanent solution can be reached.

Please See CCC, Page 2

Ronnie Jiright formally enters Mayor of Elba race

by Marvin McIlwain, Editor

Ronnie Jiright has officially announced his candidacy for mayor of Elba.

Ronny and his wife, Gloria, have been in business in Elba for 26 years.

Together they have five children. They are: Pete of Virginia Beach, VA; Keith of Ft. Walton Beach, FL; Rhonda of Niceville, FL; Kenneth of Crestview, FL; and Scott of Elba. They have three grandsons and two granddaughters.

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Please See RACE, Page 10

clean-up after Hurricane Opal. The total bill is \$4,055.00. The four CD's will net \$1,000 plus interest.

Due to the fact that the town's attorney, Joe Sawyer, could not attend Monday's meeting, the reviewing of the franchise agreements with Covington Electric and Southeast Alabama Gas was postponed.

The council approved cashing in a sum of \$125.00 for unissued items of unused town property was accepted. The lone bid was from Jane Lee.

The property consists mainly of old computer equipment and supplies.

Mayor Kathryn Holley noted that it cost \$47,50 to advertise the bid.

Police Chief Charles Driggers reported that his officers had answered 17 complaints during the month of June and made 17 criminal arrests.

He noted that 56 traffic citations were issued and 100 minor accidents, with no injuries, were investigated by the department. Also, the fire department responded to 3 fires and the rescue squad made 15 runs.

Driggers reported that his officers were responsible for the fire prevention qualification requirements in the near future. He also informed the council that Lt. Jerry Gilbert would be attending a training session in Ft. Deposit, AL.

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BRINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

It is amazing that local business owners would actually refuse to come back to their place of business when police call and report a door open! Even accepting the fact we go to the opposite extreme in caring what happens to our business ... a lifetime of listening to the children joke about our driving by to look at the *Clipper* building every time we return from a four hour out-of-town trip ... it is hard to see how a business can survive when the owner/manager cares that little about what is happening. We urge business people to support the police ... and your business ... in this matter.

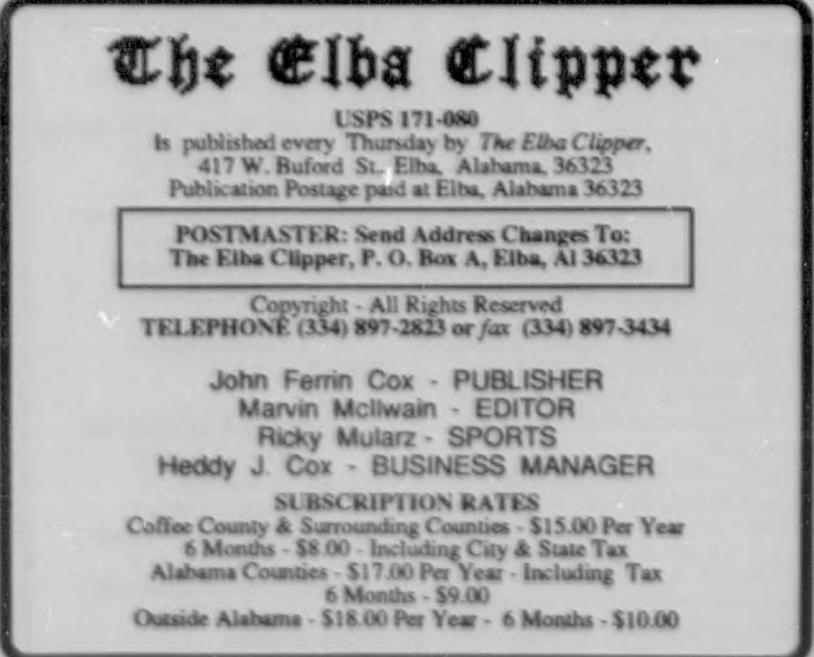
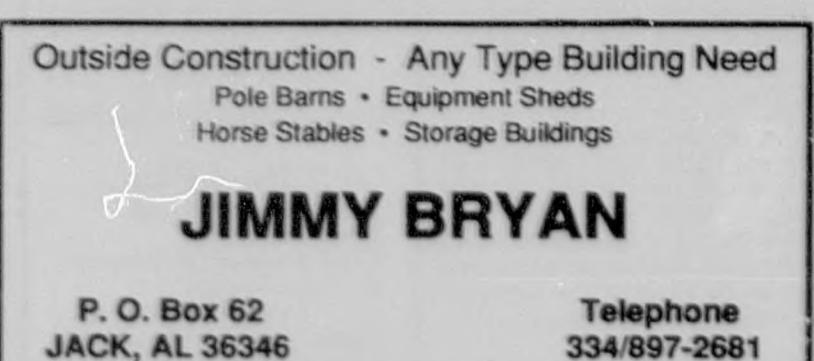
Things have been tough around our house for the past week. There was that 121 annual family reunion to attend on Saturday and a birthday celebration for my 85 year old mother on Sunday. Naturally some of those involved in both events (plus a Saturday night gathering of siblings) had to travel many hours each way ... therefore it was tougher on them than on us, but it is hard to understand how that is possible! We were tired, tired, tired by Sunday night and the after effects ain't disappeared yet. One bright spot is the return of sisters and brothers-in-law from the big city who seem to always enjoy their stays in Elba, and the good people we meet there.

Hurricane Bertha is buzzing around the Atlantic as this is being written. Hopefully this one will miss us but that doesn't mean the next one will go away quietly. Therefore it would be smart for Wiregrass folks to get ready for a disaster BEFORE it happens. The 'ol southern laid-back, easy going method of preparing will work now, but when the hurricane is bearing down on us, there is only time to "git & go." The government has compiled lists of things we should stockpile ... get a copy and do it.

Boris Yeltsin was re-elected last week in Russia, but only with about 52% of the votes. That country is still mighty close to reverting to Communism, as evidenced by the heavy vote of the Communist candidate Gennadi Zyuganov. America doesn't need to let down the guard just yet. We need to continue defusing the old USSR nuclear arsenal at a fast clip and at the same time preserve our military know-how and training in case the Reds get back in power while there is still danger of nuclear war.

One of the Kiplinger publications has a feature this month about "How To Simplify Your Life." If it lives up to the billing of the headlines, everyone can all benefit from reading the article. Personally, we plan to read it slowly in hopes of finding the magic formula. The plan is to keep our readers posted if the article makes sense.

The Alabama legislature will apparently be back in special session in what is being called the "election bill session." The only question is just when the session will be called. It may be next week if it may be in the fall, but Governor James wants to clarify the requirement for two witnesses to an absent ballot and add one or more early voting days to cut down on absentee voting. All that will muddy the water and decrease the chances of anything meaningful being passed by the lawmakers.



TREE FALLS ON HOUSE... An early morning rainstorm Monday morning dumped a lot of rain, but it caused, or least contributed to, a tree falling on the Grover Harrelson residence at 806 Washington Avenue in the Riverview subdivision. No one was hurt; however, the roof was severely damaged. City electrical and street department crews assisted Mr. Harrelson in removing the tree off his home.

CCC

(Continued from Page One)

Tindall hopes to budget funds in 1997 to rebuild Co. Rd. 349.

Mohley reported that the county's revenue was in "good shape." He stated that with 75 percent of the budget year gone, the general fund was 4 percent under budget (71 percent of the budgeted amount has been spent).

The commission was asked to make their board appointments at the next commission meeting on July 11.

He noted that other budgeted expenditures were also well within tolerance at this time.

Chairman Stephens read a letter from Charles Webb, director of Coffey County's Emergency Management Agency, concerning E-911.

Web requested that a seven-member Emergency Communication Board be appointed to begin work on implementing county-wide E-911.

He noted that was asking each of the municipalities (Elba, Enterprise, New Brockton, and Tiptonville), one member to the commission, and that the inexperience could hurt the commission.

He suggested that maybe the possibility of staggered terms should be looked into. Chairman Stephens appointed Brooks to examine the possibility and report back to the commission this fall.

Other matters acted on by the commission consisted of the following:

***In a vote of 6 to 1 denied the request from an Internal Revenue Service agent to use the community room for audits.

***Approved a request from the New Hope Senior Citizens' Center to pay the liability insurance on their van.

***Accepted the proposed lease agreement from the state health department on the county health facility. In the agreement, annual payments are set at \$100,000 for a period of twenty years.

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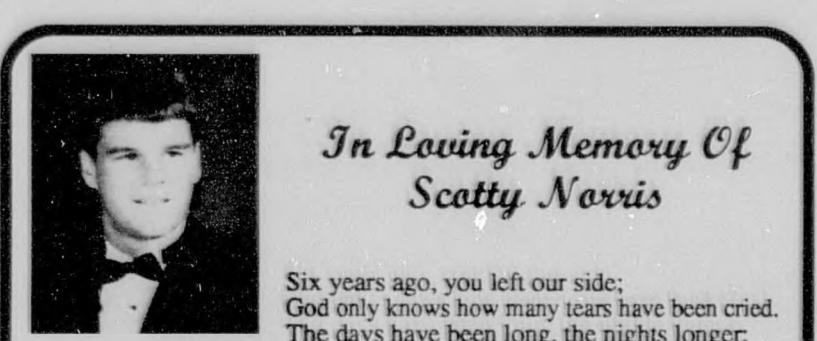
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Area & Community News



UA STUDENT RECEIVES HONOR...Elena Ann Strong (right) of Elba recently received the Dean's Freshman Achievement Award in the University of Alabama College of Human Environmental Sciences. Dr. Judy Bonner (left), dean of the college, is pictured with Strong.



In Loving Memory Of
Scotty Norris

Six years ago, you left our side:
God only knows how many tears have been cried.
The days have been long, the nights longer;
All we can do is pray to God to make us stronger.
For we know you are in a much better place;
And that one day we'll once again see your handsome face.

We All Love And Miss You,
Your Family - Mother & Stepfather - Rita & Buck Jackson
Grandparents - James and Jeanette Morgan



MAX LEN KERSEY



Max Len Kersey

Views From ...

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

After a long holiday weekend this week's column comes in a day late a little bit short...

*** The Elba Babe Ruth All-Stars wrapped up their post-season play last week with a 13-15 year-olds. The 13-year-olds were chalked up one win in their district tourney before being ousted, while the 14-year-olds also got one win before being ousted in a controversial manner. The 14-year-olds were down two runs late in their third game and appeared ready to pull out the win; however, the scorekeeper keeping the official book had failed to notice a rule in which the second game when the team in question came up short was called a win, surpassing the innings limit. This resulted in a forfeit, and despite a protest by the Elba coaches, the ruling stood and the All-Stars were eliminated. The mistake was an honest one, but the ones punished were the players, and they were the ones that were without blame. The 15-year-olds failed to get a win in their district tourney, putting the Babe Ruth League's overall record in tourney play 2-6. A disappointment, but a learning experience for everyone involved.

*** The Dixie Minor and Dixie Youth All-Stars are in action this week and both teams appear to have the talent to win some games. The Dixie Minors are in action in Enterprise and won their first game Monday night 15-5 over Samson, while the Dixie Youth Stars will swing into action Thursday in Geneva. Elba baseball fans should try to get to one of the tourney sites or catch a few games. The players are young, but they represent the future of the sport in our city and deserve your support.

*** The Cash Brothers girl's softball team competed in the NSA State Tournament last weekend in Huntsville and won four games before being eliminated and having to settle for third place honors. The Cash team had won the NSA 12U All-Stars title last year, but this year, at 13 years a game, failed to get the elusive second crown and came home with a third place finish. For the Elba girls to win one state title was quite a feat, and to place third in another tourney so far from home was no less a feat. The entire town, and especially the softball players in the area, should be proud of what these youngstars have accomplished.

*** The high school football season will be here before you know it and area coaches are already getting their players ready. It will be a very different season for area teams with many new faces on just about every school in the county, and that should make it even more interesting than ever. More on football in weeks to come.

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Dixie Minor All-Stars in action now

The Elba Dixie Minor All-Stars are in action this week at the Sub-District Tournament in Enterprise, with the teams competing for the right to advance to District competition.

Elba opened the tournament on Monday night against Samson, and was scheduled to play again on Wednesday night. A win in either round, or second round, would put the All-Stars playing again on Thursday, at 6:00 p.m.

The tournament is being played at the new Dixie Field located behind the Moose Hope gym, in Enterprise.

Elba Athletic Club to meet

The Elba Athletic Club will hold a meeting on Monday, July 15, at 7:00 p.m., at the Elba High School cafeteria.

Don't Dig Your Own Grave



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SPORTS

Babe Ruth All-Stars fall at district

The Babe Ruth Baseball District 2 tournaments have now drawn to a close for the Elba All-Stars in both the 14-year-old and 15-year-old divisions.

The 14-year-old All-Stars competed in Andalusia and claimed one win before being ousted. The All-

stars win came over Brundidge 15-4, with losses to Andalusia 10-2 and 7-0, with the latter being on a

forfeit after an alleged pitching violation.

The 15-year-old All-Stars com-

peted in Opp and were eliminated in two games, losing to Opp 19-9 and Andalusia 6-5.



Dixie Youth All-Stars to play tonight

The Elba Dixie Youth All-Stars will play in the Sub-District Tournament on Thursday when they compete in Geneva.

Elba will meet Geneva at 8:00 p.m., and will be in action again on Friday, when the All-Stars play Geneva again at 8:00, while a loss in the opening round would put the All-Stars in a loser's bracket game at 6:00.

A total of six teams will compete in the six team event, including Elba, Geneva, Hartford, Samson, Enterprise Nationals and Enterprise Americans.

The tournament is a double-elimination event and is scheduled to conclude on July 12 or July 13.

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CASH BROTHERS LEASING...brought home third place honors last weekend at the NSA State Softball Tournament in Huntsville. Members of the team include (kneeling, l-r) Amanda Edwards, Racann McCollough, Rachel Bludsworth, Devin Kilcrease, Lindsey Jard, Natasha Barrin, Rene Wambles, Vaughan Boyd, (standing, l-r) Coach Robert Edwards, Melissa Mularz, Elisha Scott, Aubretta Williams, Melissa Granham, Rosanna McKinney, Amy Kirkland, Coach Reb Bludsworth, Michelle Lewis, Leslie Stinson and Coach Ricky Mularz.

The Cash Brothers Leasing girls softball team, from Elba, competed in the National Softball Association "State Softball Tournament" last weekend in Huntsville and claimed four wins to bring home third place honors in the 14 and Under division.

A total of 96 teams from across the state competed in the six age divisions, including 15 teams in the 14 and Under division.

We hit the road well throughout the tournament and really had a shot to win the whole thing," said Coach Ricky Mularz. "The team that defeated us twice simply out-hits us, and in both losses we had the lead until late in the games and just didn't have the finishing touch. Our defense was as strong as any tournament we had played in all summer, and I think it was a credit to the girls for winning four games and bringing home the third place trophy."

The score was knotted at 1-1 after two innings, but Cash moved on top 3-1 in the third and slowly pulled away to win.

Amanda Edwards, Michelle Lewis and Leslie Stinson all got 2 hits for Cash, while Melissa Mularz and a stingy defense held the Bad Girls to zero hits.

The hard-hitting Cash team forced its opponents into numerous errors, and a number of players had outstanding on-base percentages, led by Melinda Granham, who reached base 20 of 25 at-bats and Amanda Edwards, who reached base 21 of 27 at-bats. Other batters with high on-base percentages included Leslie Stinson (14-20), Elisha Scott (14-20), Melissa Mularz (13-20), Vaughan Boyd (17-26), Lindsey Jard (16-26), Michelle Lewis (15-26) and Rachel Bludsworth (11-16).

The Andalusia Rotary Club will host the 21st annual World Championship Domino Tournament on July 12-13, and like in previous tournaments, the two-day event will draw players from Alabama and across the south and midwest.

The event will be held in the Andalusia Civic Center, Andalusia College, and the players in attendance will compete for trophies and cash totaling over \$20,000.

Singles and doubles competition

in adult, teen and children's divisions are featured events, with the singles action to begin on July 12 at 8:00 A.M., and doubles action to begin on July 13, also at 8:00 A.M.

Registration before July 1 is \$25 per person for adults and \$15 for teens (ages 13-19), while children's admission is \$10. For more information call the Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce at (334) 222-2030.

Adults, teens and children's divisions are featured events, with the singles action to begin on July 12 at 8:00 A.M., and doubles action to begin on July 13, also at 8:00 A.M.

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Elba, AL

CITY

(Continued from Page One)

RACE

(Continued from Page One)

Nelson and Haywood issued a plea for business owners to please cooperate with the police when they are out. They said doors or windows being open or unlocked. Nelson reported he has had business owners tell them over the phone to "just lock the door, everything will be okay. However they do not follow through and the business owner might come to the scene."

Hall, the public is invited to attend this area-wide 9 a.m. hearing being hosted by Elba. Haywood said he hoped this would avert another incident such as the dangerous chemicals which got into the garbage recently in Shiloh.

The Elba Police Department received 19 complaints during the past two weeks, according to a report from Officer-in-Charge LL John

Nelson. They investigated seven thefts, two burglaries and recovered one stolen vehicle from Opp. They are investigating nine break-ins, including two for DUI. There were five criminal arrest and the officers investigated six traffic accidents, resulting in two injuries.

Nelson reported the department is working with the police in solving some of the recent break-ins in Elba. They have located some of the stolen property and some of the suspect. He said they were looking for another suspect, had just that day found some more stolen property and he expected arrests to be made.

"I sincerely ask for your prayerful consideration. Cast a vote of wisdom, together we can make a difference."

Jinright, who has served on the city council, says he feels the knowledge of Alabama municipal laws and codes will be beneficial in eliminating future lawsuits.

"I want to encourage each of you to register and vote. Also, become

more involved and knowledgeable, as I have, by attending council meetings."

"Before you vote, carefully consider each candidate. Remember when you vote you are not only voting for the person, but the future of Elba for the next 4 years."

Jinright also added that on August 27th, the citizens of Elba have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the future of Elba.

"I want to encourage each of you to register and vote. Also, become

Deadline For Social News is MONDAY!!

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Elba Mayor

M. J. (Jack) PARKER - MAYOR

Vote for me, M. J. (Jack) Parker, the candidate who is qualified to serve as your mayor.

My experience in management with the United States Justice Department in government, personnel management, and budgeting qualify me exceedingly well for the mayoral position.

I served as assistant execution officer coordinating and directing the day-to-day operations of the district and solving all difficult and complex problems related thereto. I was fully responsible for the instructions to be given to the administrative and operational workforce by subordinate supervisory and non-supervisory personnel. I did exercise full responsibility for all activities of the district.

I assisted management officers of the Resource Analysis Division and Internal Audit in the evaluation of operational programs of district officers. I participated in on-site management evaluations, gathered and compiled statistical and other information data necessary for these evaluations.

I have assisted in special projects at the direction of headquarters management officers such as the development and implementation of proposed national and operating programs which often involved sensitive matters and required complex coordination and analysis with other state, local, and federal agencies.

Pd Pol Adv by Jack Parker, 942 N. Claxton Ave, Elba, AL 36323

Elba Mayor

M. J. (Jack) PARKER

Elba Mayor

M. J. (Jack) PARKER